

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-6. (Canceled)

AI 7. (Currently amended) In a distributed system including a plurality of redundant components, A a method for performance by a node first redundant component, comprising:

transmitting information particular to the node first component to other components in the plurality of redundant components a plurality of other nodes, the information relating to one or more criteria by according to which a leader node component is to be determined;

receiving information from the other nodes components particular to the other nodes components and relating to the one or more criteria by according to which the leader node component is to be determined; and,

determining whether the node first component is the leader node component by comparing the information particular to the node first component with the information particular to the other nodes redundant components.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising periodically repeating the method ~~to redetermine which node of the node and the plurality of other nodes is the leader node.~~

9. (Canceled)

A) 10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the transmitting the information particular to the ~~node~~ first component comprises transmitting age information particular to the ~~node~~ first component, and the receiving the information particular to the other ~~nodes~~ components comprises receiving age information particular to the other ~~nodes~~ components.

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a plurality of redundant ~~nodes~~-components; and,

a leader ~~node~~ component elected from the plurality of redundant ~~nodes~~ components by using way of a weak leader election approach.

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) An architecture for an automation system, the automation system to control and monitor a plurality of devices, the architecture comprising:

at least one look-up service to maintain at least one database of the plurality of devices by a plurality of device attributes including device type and physical location, and of a plurality of device objects corresponding to the plurality of devices by mapping a name for each device object to at least one address for each device object;

A1 a soft-state store to manage at least periodic refresh information for the plurality of devices and the plurality of device objects, the refresh information managed by the soft-state store as a plurality of soft-state variables;

a publication/subscription eventing component to enable subscriptions to events related to changes in the plurality of soft-state variables managed by the soft-state store; and,

at least one system management daemon having a plurality of redundant instances in which a leader instance among the plurality of redundant instances is elected by using a weak leader election approach.

17. (Original) The architecture of claim 16, wherein the at least one system management daemon comprises a power line monitoring daemon.

A2 18. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the determining whether the first component is the leader component comprises determining whether the first component is an oldest component.

19. (New) The system of claim 13 wherein the leader component elected by way of the weak leader election approach comprises an oldest component in the plurality of redundant components.

20. (New) In a computer system including a plurality of redundant components, a method for electing a leader component, comprising:

exchanging leader election criteria information among the plurality of redundant components; and

at each component in the plurality of redundant components:

(a) determining whether the component is the leader component, based on the leader election criteria information; and

(b) repeating the determining whenever the component detects an occurrence of a failure possibly affecting the leader component.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

periodically repeating the method.

22. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the exchanging leader election criteria information comprises exchanging age information.

23. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein the determining whether the component is the leader component comprises:

determining whether the component is an oldest component; and

if the component determines that it is the oldest component, concluding that the component is the leader component.

24. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein the exchanging age information includes exchanging information regarding how long each component in the plurality of redundant components has been online.

25. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the redundant components are redundant instances of a daemon.

26. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the daemon is a system management daemon.

27. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the daemon is a power line monitoring daemon.

28. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the redundant components are redundant executing processes.

29. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the redundant components are redundant class objects.

30. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the redundant components are redundant devices in an automation system.

31. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the redundant components are redundant nodes in a network.